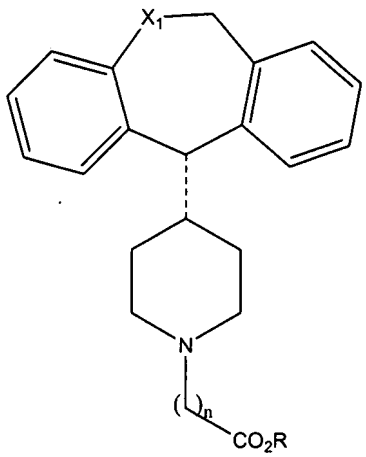
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(- - -) represents a double bond;

X_1 is -O-;

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted;

the alkylene spacer molecule between the piperidine and the $-CO_2R$ group is substituted with ~~a heteroatom or~~ a cyclic ~~substituent~~ alkyl or a heterocycle, wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic alkyl or the heterocycle; and

R is -H, 2-propyl, 2-butyl, 2-pentyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 3-tetrahydrofuryl, 3-pentyl, 1,3-dimethoxy-2-propyl, 4-tetrahydropyranyl, 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentyl, 1-methoxy-2-propyl, 1-3-diethoxy-2-propyl, or 2,2'dimethyl-l-propyl.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R is -H.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxyethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morphilinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-

yl)methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy, morphilinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1-methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

the aryl rings are optionally and independently substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)OR_4$, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-OC(O)R_4$, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)-NR_5R_6$ and $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-NHC(O)O-R_4$;

wherein:

t is an integer from 0 to 3;

$-(CH_2)_t-$ is substituted or unsubstituted; and

R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently hydrogen, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group, or R_5 and R_6, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a non-aromatic heterocyclic ring.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

the aryl rings are optionally and independently substituted with one or more of halogen, -OH, $-CO_2H$, alkylimine, alkylsulfonyl, carboxamido, carboxylic alkyl esters, -CH=NH, $-NO_2$, azido, cyano, fluoroalkyl, $-CONR_8R_9$, $-NR_8R_9$, $-OS(O)_2NR_8R_9$, $-S(O)_2NR_8R_9$, sulfonic acid, sulfonamide, guanidino, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)OR_4$, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-OC(O)R_4$, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-C(O)-NR_5R_6$, $-(O)_u-(CH_2)_t-NHC(O)O-R_4$, -Q-H, -Q-(aliphatic group), -Q-(substituted aliphatic group), -Q-(aryl), -Q-(aromatic group), -Q-(substituted aromatic group), $-Q-(CH_2)_p-$(substituted or unsubstituted aromatic group), -Q-(non-aromatic heterocyclic group) or $-Q-(CH_2)_p-$(non-aromatic heterocyclic group);

wherein:

p is an integer from 1 to 5;

u is 0 or 1;

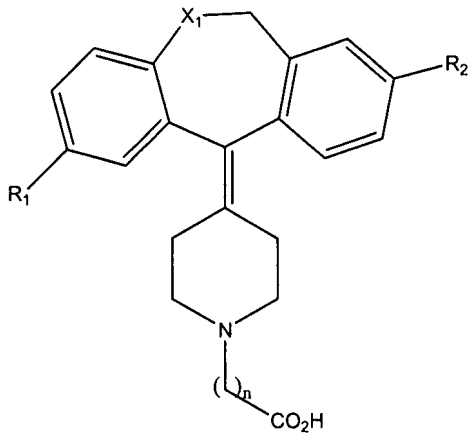
Q is –O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -$S(O)_2$-, -$OS(O)_2$-, -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O, -C(O)C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)C(O)-, -C(O)NH-, -NHC(O)-, -OC(O)NH-, -NHC(O)O-, NH-C(O)-NH-, -$S(O)_2$ NH-, -$NHS(O)_2$-, -$N(R_7)$-, -$C(NR_7)NHNH$-, -$NHNHC(NR_7)$-, -$NR_8C(O)$- or –NR_8 $S(O)_2$-;

R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently – H, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a substituted aromatic group, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group, -NHC(O)-O-(aliphatic group), -NHC(O)-O- (aromatic group) or –NHC(O)-O-(non-aromatic heterocyclic group), or R_5 and R_6, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, are a non-aromatic heterocyclic ring;

R_7 is –H, an aliphatic group, a benzyl group, an aryl group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group; and

R_8 and R_9 are independently –H, hydroxy, an aliphatic group, a substituted aliphatic group, a benzyl group, an aryl group or a non-aromatic heterocyclic group.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound is represented by the following formula:



wherein:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

R_1 = -H, -OH, -CH_2OH, or -CH_2CH_2OH;

R_2 = -H, -CH_3, -CF_3, -Cl, or -Br;

X_1 is -O-; and

the alkylene spacer molecule is: substituted with a cyclic ~~substituent~~ alkyl or a heterocycle, wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic ~~substituent~~alkyl or the heterocycle.

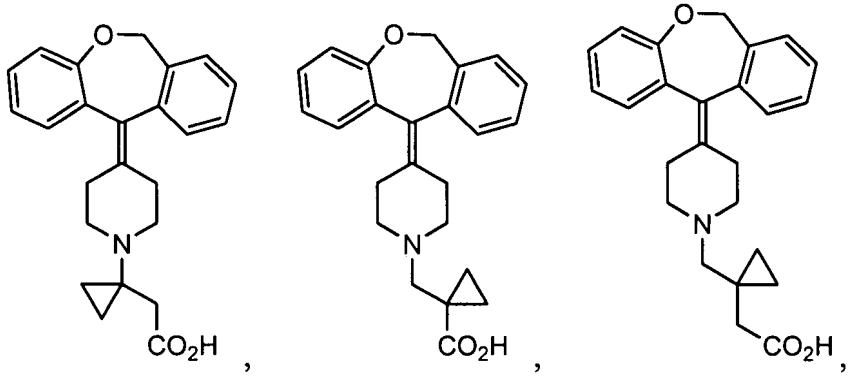
7.-12. (Canceled).

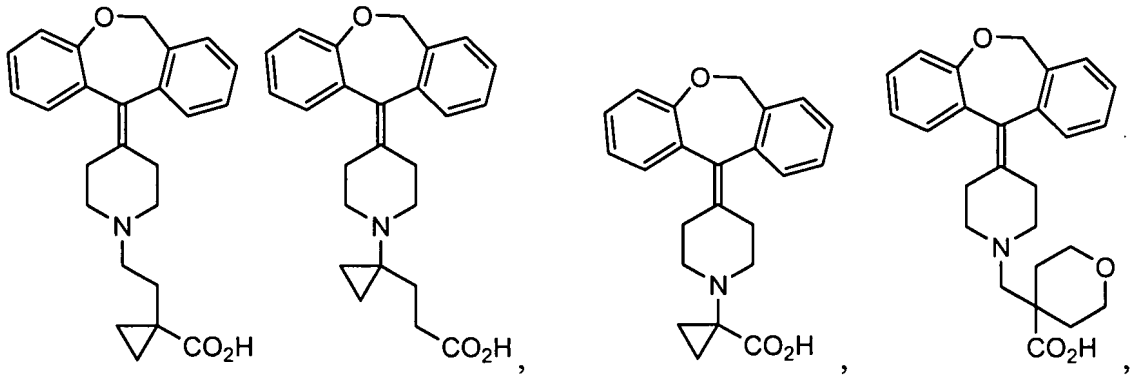
13. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the alkylene spacer is substituted with a cyclic alkyl, wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic alkyl ~~substituent~~.

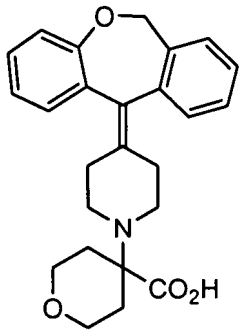
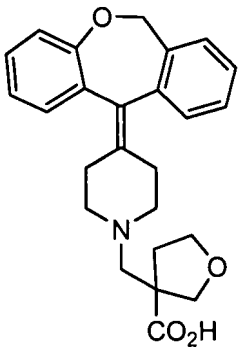
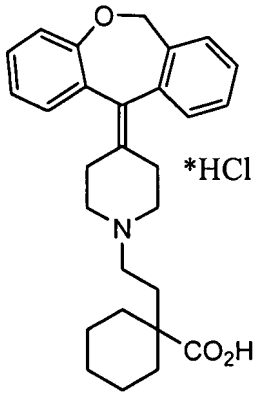
14. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 13, wherein the cyclic alkyl ~~substituent~~ is a ~~cycloalkyl~~ cyclopropyl group ~~or a cyclic ether group~~.

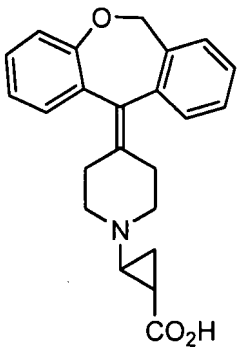
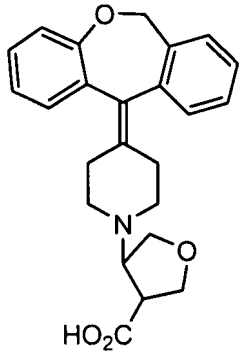
15. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 14, wherein one ~~or more~~ of the carbons of the ~~alkylene~~ spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic alkyl~~cyclic substituent~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim [[15]]6, wherein the compound is selected from the group of compounds consisting of:

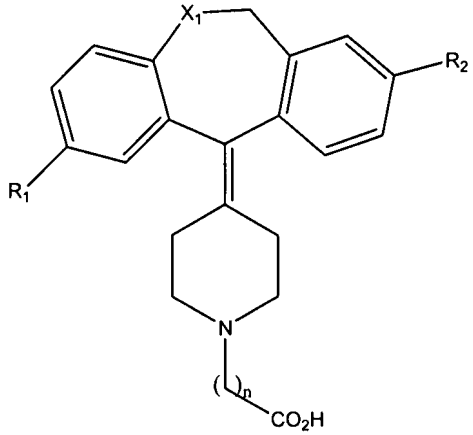





and


17. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is represented by the following formula:



wherein:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

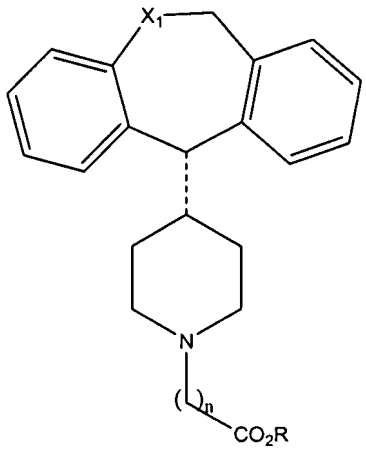
the alkylene spacer is substituted with a ~~heteroatom or a~~ cyclic ~~substitutent~~ alkyl or a heterocycle, wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclic alkyl or the heterocycle;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from one or more groups selected from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxyethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morphilinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-yl) methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy, morphilinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines; and

X_1 is -O-.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the alkylene spacer molecule is substituted with a cyclic alkyl or a heterocycle ~~substituent is~~ selected from cyclopropyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, and cyclohexyl.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(- - -) represents double bond;

X_1 is -O-;

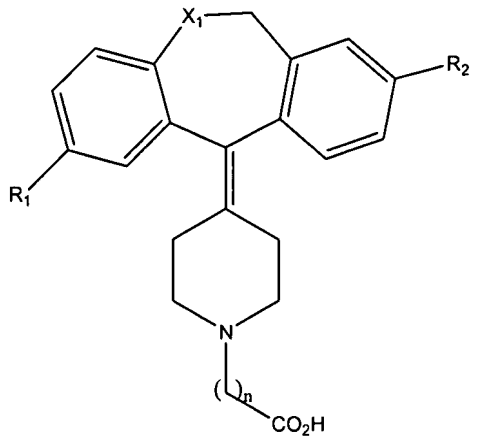
n is an integer from 1 to 6;

the aryl rings are each optionally and independently substituted;

the alkylene spacer molecule between the piperidine and the $-CO_2R$ group is substituted with cyclopropyl, wherein one or more of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclopropyl ring; and

R is -H, 2-propyl, 2-butyl, 2-pentyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 3-tetrahydrofuryl, 3-pentyl, 1,3-dimethoxy-2-propyl, 4-tetrahydropyranyl, 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentyl, 1-methoxy-2-propyl, 1-3-diethoxy-2-propyl, or 2,2'dimethyl-l-propyl.

20. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following structural formula:



wherein:

n is 1, 2, or 3;

the alkylene spacer is substituted with cyclopropyl, wherein one of the carbons of the spacer molecule is contained in the cyclopropyl ring;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from one or more groups selected from halogen, dimethylaminocarbonyl, fluoroalkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, carboxylic acid, methylhydroxy, methylcarbonyl, cyano, aminomethyl, (aminoalkyl), ethoxycarbonylmethoxy, cyanomethyloxy, (acetoxyethyl)oxy, (hydroxyoxyethyl)oxy, morphilinoethyloxy, (tetrazol-5-yl) methyloxy, carboxymethyloxy, dimethylaminocarbonylmethyloxy,

morphilinocarbonylmethyloxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-carboxy-1methylethyl)oxy, (2-methoxyethyl)oxy, (1-dimethylaminocarbonyl-1-methylethyl)oxy, (1-ethoxycarbonyl)cyclobutoxy, (1-carboxy)cyclobutoxy, (1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, (2,2-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)oxy, acyloxy, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and substituted or unsubstituted amines; and

X_1 is -O-.